

# **HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL**

Minutes (Approved)

Monthly Meeting

March 9, 2009

Chairperson Mary Kay Sigaty called the monthly meeting to order 4:31 pm on March 9, 2009, in the C. Vernon Gray Room, 8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, MD.

Members present on call to order: Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, and Jennifer Terrasa. Greg Fox arrived at 4:40 pm.

Ms. Sigaty reported on a meeting with GTV personnel for improved camera angles at the Board of Education. Consideration will also be given to installing equipment from the Bancker room in the C. Vernon Gray Conference Room to allow filming followed by delayed broadcasting.

Ms. Sigaty also reported that the Patuxent River Commission will be meeting on March 10, 2009. Howard County has secured a portion of the funding for stream renovation in downtown Columbia from the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Atlantic trust fund. This is the first project of its kind combining government, not-for-profit and private support. Additionally, Howard County has received a State grant to upgrade the water treatment plant upgrade, including nitrogen removal and reduction.

Ms. Terrasa reported that MACo met on February 25, 2009 and is scheduled to meet again on April 1, 2009. She supplied the Legislative Committee Recent Activity Report as of March 5, 2009. There was a brief discussion of selected bills pending before the General Assembly, including bills related to tasers, self executing special tax districts, and Terrapin Run.

Steve LeGendre gave the Administrator's report. Topics included e-Dialog improvements, the county wide SAP/ERP project, procedures for budget question, non-flex time during budget, staff vacations during summer months, staff attendance at the MACo summer conference, and compliance with Public Information Act requests.

Haskell Arnold, County Auditor, reported on audits issued, in review and in progress. Expenditures by the County Auditor remain under budget.

The members requested the inclusion of Ray Wacks, Budget Administrator, on the agenda for future monthly meetings.

Ted Meyerson, Chairman, gave the final report for the Senior Tax Credit Task Force. He reviewed the experience of the past two years and discussed the interaction with the State tax credit. At this time, the Task Force does not recommend changes to the law.

Rachelina Bonacci, Executive Director, Howard County Tourism, gave a power point presentation describing the important role the tourism team plays in attracting visitors to Howard County, Tourism partnerships and upcoming events.

Carol Filipczac, Chair, Public Transportation Board, and Fred Fravel, KFH Group, summarized the Final Report for the Short-Range Transportation Development Plan, followed by a question and answer session.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

### Closed Meetings

In accordance with Section 10-508(a)(7) of the State Government Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the County Council met in closed session at 6:30 p.m. on February 23, 2009 in the Board Room, Board of Education, 10910 Route 108 to obtain legal advice concerning pending litigation. The motion to close the meeting was made by Ms. Sigaty, seconded by Mr. Fox, and passed unanimously by the full Council.

Members present: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa, Courtney Watson.

Also present: Margaret Ann Nolan, County Solicitor; Lou Ruzzi, Assistant County Solicitor; James Vannoy, Assistant County Solicitor; Steve LeGendre, County Council Administrator.

Discussion: Ms. Nolan and Mr. Ruzzi reviewed the allegations in Paul F. Kendall, et al, v. Howard County Maryland, et al, In the United States District Court for the Northern District of Maryland, Civil Action No. JFM 09 CV 369 and Paul F. Kendall, et al, v. Howard County, et al, In the Circuit Court for Howard County, Maryland, Civ. No. 13-C-08-075564. Counsel advised the members to preserve all records related to the litigation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

In accordance with Section 10-508(a)(7) of the State Government Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the County Council met in closed session at 8:06 p.m. on March 2, 2009 in the Board Room, Board of Education, 10910 Route 108 to obtain legal advice concerning pending litigation. The motion to close the meeting was made by Ms. Sigaty, seconded by Ms. Terrasa, and passed unanimously by the full Council.

Members present: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa, Courtney Watson.

Also present: Margaret Ann Nolan, County Solicitor; James Vannoy, Assistant County Solicitor; Steve LeGendre, County Council Administrator.

Discussion: Ms. Nolan and Mr. Vannoy reviewed the schedule for pleadings in Paul F. Kendall, et al, v. Howard County Maryland, et al, In the United States District Court for the Northern District of Maryland, Civil Action No. JFM 09 CV 369, Paul F. Kendall, et al, v. Howard County, et al, In the Circuit Court for Howard County, Maryland, Civ. No. 13-C-08-075564 and Greenberg Gibbons Commercial Corp. v. Howard County Bd. Of Elections, et al.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

